

Book review

The management of AIDS patients. Edited by D Miller, J Weber, and J Green, 1986. Macmillan, London. Pp 202. Price £10.95.

Here is the first authoritative British guide written and edited by specialists working in the major London teaching hospitals. Within the covers of this short book is contained a wealth of practical detail on all aspects of the management of individuals infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and others at risk of infection. The first chapter, written by Drs Weber and Pinching, outlines the clinical aspects of HIV infection including the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The reader is guided through the differential diagnoses of pulmonary and gastrointestinal features of AIDS, and treatment regimens for the complicating infections are

set out in sufficient detail to aid the doctor dealing with his first case. Kaposi's sarcoma and its differential diagnosis is described clearly, and the colour photographs have reproduced well. Chapters 2 and 3 deal with the immunological aspects of HIV infection and virology, respectively. With the recent expansion in knowledge about the virus, however, the latter chapter is inevitably dated. "Venereology" is the title of the fourth chapter and here the concept that AIDS is a sexually transmissible disease is reinforced. As a sizable proportion of haemophiliacs who have received factor VIII concentrate are seropositive for the virus, it is entirely appropriate that Chapter 5 is concerned with the special problems of HIV infection in this group. Good common sense advice on the nursing of infected patients is given in Chapter 6. Clearly, the three authors of this chapter have had considerable experience in this field, and the compassion in their writing reflects this. The devastating effect of the

diagnosis of AIDS being given to the patient, uncertainties about the development of the disease in otherwise well seropositive people, and the profound effects of the emergence of the disease in groups at risk demand that individuals who manage these men and women should be absolutely clear about the psychological and sociological aspects of HIV infection. David Miller and John Green are to be congratulated on setting out so clearly these issues in three chapters. As an appendix there is a list of useful addresses for high risk groups, Scottish AIDS Monitor (SAM) is not included, however, which I think is unfortunate as this book will certainly sell well north of the border.

I have no hesitation in recommending this book to *all* doctors who are likely to manage infected patients, genitourinary medicine clinic nurses, health visitors and health advisors, and members of interested voluntary organisations.

A McMillan

Notices

Organisers of meetings who wish to insert notices should send details to the editor (address on the inside front cover at least eight months before the date of the meeting or six months before the closing date for application.

Grand Orient de Belgique masonic lodge, Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis, 4th medical prize

In March 1987 the masonic lodge "Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis" in Antwerp will award its 4th medical prize of 30 000 ECU (£19 000).

The purpose of the prize is to reward a scientist or group of scientists who, in the course of their research work, have made a significant contribution to the progress of medical science whether theoretical or practical, fundamental or clinical. The prize may be divided between several candidates.

The prize will be awarded by jury of four members and a president appointed by the masonic lodge "Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis". The jury shall be entitled to call in experts for advice if it deems necessary. The members of the jury who will have been empanelled to attend the meetings

will have to justify their judgment of the candidacies in writing. All deliberations will be made in camera and decisions made by a simple majority. All working expenses will be paid by the organising lodge.

The competition is open to any researcher whether certified or not, without discrimination of a racial, national, sexual, or philosophical nature. Candidacies for the prize must be sponsored by at least two freemasons whose masonic qualifications must be confirmed by their masonic authorities. In turn the sponsors will have to vouch in writing for the moral integrity of their candidates.

All applications must be accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae of the candidates, a résumé of their scientific activities, and the opinion of the authorities under whom they work. All applications must be submitted before 30 December 1986 and addressed to: Mr René De Zuttere, Hoogpadlaan 101,

B-2070 Antwerp, Belgium.

The jury will come to a decision not later than 31 March 1987. This decision will be final and not open to appeal. The prize will be presented during an academic session in Antwerp in May 1987. The masonic lodge "Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis" reserves the right to withhold the prize should the applications appear to be below standard.

Fifth African regional STD conference

The fifth African regional STD conference will be held on 1 to 5 June 1987 at the Medical School, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

The conference organiser is Dr A S Latif, Department of Medicine, Medical School, PO Box A178, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe.